UNITED
NATIONS

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Trusteeship Council

Distr.
GENERAL

T/PV.1679
7 June 1990

ENGLISH

Fifty-seventh session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 29 May 1990, at 11 a.m.

President: Mrs. GAZEAU-SECRET (France)

- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1989: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
- General debate
- Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)
- Appointment of a drafting committee

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1944)

GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. DING Yuanhong (China) (interpretation from Chinese): First, Madam President, allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the Council for its current session. I am confident that under your able guidance the session will be crowned with success. I wish also to take this opportunity to express my congratulations to the representative of the United Kingdom on his election as Vice-President.

Last year, in keeping with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Chinese delegation took part in the work of the Trusteeship Council for the first time, wishing to contribute to the undertakings of the United Nations trusteeship system and promote the advancement of the Trust Territories. It is with the same wish that we are here to participate in the work of the fifty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council, during which we look forward to close co-operation with the other member countries.

In compliance with the relevant resolutions, the Trusteeship Council sent to Palau last February a Visiting Mission to observe a plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association there. It was the first time the Chinese delegation had been involved in any such Visiting Missions. The visit left us deeply impressed and broadened our knowledge of the Territory. During the visit we had audience with the Palauans, whose views and opinions on some issues are reflected in the Visiting Mission's report. We also took note of the results of the plebiscite.

In the past few days the Council has considered the report submitted by the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and heard statements by Council members, the Administering Authority and the representative

(Mr. Ding Yuanhong, China)

of Palau, as well as the petitioners. All this has helped the Council gain a deeper understanding of the facts and the current conditions of the Trust Territory, thus serving to promote correct and comprehensive implementation of the relevant provisions of the Charter by the Council.

The principal task of the international trusteeship system is to further international peace and security and promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government and independence. We are very pleased to see that over the years the people in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands have made fairly obvious progress in the political, economic, social and other fields. On the other hand, one also finds from the statements by the relevant representatives and petitioners that there are still some problems and inadequacies which deserve our close attention. We hope that the Administering Authority will give serious consideration to the views of the people in the Trust Territory, meet their demands and fulfil to the letter its obligations towards the Trust Territory, thus creating the necessary conditions for the population of the Trust Territory to achieve self-determination at an early date.

The Charter also provides that the people in the Trust Territories are entitled to choose freely their political future by exercising their right to self-determination. We support the principle of national self-determination and respect the choice made by the people in the Trust Territories, of their own free will, concerning their future political status.

Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom): Our thanks and congratulations first go to you, Madam President, for the way in which you have conducted our work so far. On a personal note, perhaps I might be allowed to express my pleasure at being back in the Council after an absence of some 12 years. The Trusteeship Council has always been an important institution of the United Nations, and I believe that it has always shown itself sympathetic to the needs and aspirations of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories themselves.

The British Government has consistently supported the efforts of the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to achieve whatever form of self-government meets their wishes and their particular circumstances. Over the past 20 years the Micronesians have drawn up their own constitutions, negotiated their respective new status agreements and participated in referendums to endorse those agreements. For all those reasons, my delegation joined other members of the Trusteeship Council in 1986 in adopting resolution 2183 (LIII), by which the Council recognized that the peoples of Micronesia had freely exercised their right to self-determination and had chosen either free association with the United States or Commonwealth status.

It is sometimes argued that the peoples of Micronesia have not been allowed to make a free political choice and that for its own strategic reasons the Administering Authority has divided the Trust Territory into four entities in order to increase their dependency on the United States. My delegation disagrees. The United States tried for a number of years to create a single state of Micronesia. But it became clear in the course of the future-status negotiations and the popular referendums that followed that this was not what was wanted by the inhabitants of the Trust Territory - a vast Terirtory whose constituent parts are divided by many thousand miles of ocean. The creation of four separate entities - the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau - is testimony to the commitment of the Administering Authority to democracy and to the right of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory to self-determination. We have always welcomed and supported that commitment.

The main subject of our discussions this year is, of course, Palau, and, as in the past, we have been provided with a great deal of useful information on the Territory. We have listened with interest to the statements of the representatives of the Administering Authority and of the Republic of Palau. We have studied carefully the latest report of the Administering Authority. We have also been grateful to our petitioners for the additional contributions which they have brought to our work.

The overall picture is an encouraging one. The major question of Palau's future political status remains unresolved, and I shall return to it later. But in general terms we are satisfied to note that the people of Palau continue effectively to govern themselves in accordance with their Constitution and have continued their advancement in the economic, social and educational fields.

We are encouraged by the rapid increase in tourism in Palau, a beautiful country both above and below the water. There is much in Palau to attract a growing number of visitors and, if developed wisely, to provide Palau with a lasting source of income. We are glad to see that tourism is already helping to boost the private sector of the economy and to decrease the dependency of Palauans on government employment. We hope that as it encourages the growth of this important industry, the Government of Palau will take steps to ensure that Palau's natural beauty, the very thing tourists come to discover, will not suffer as a consequence.

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(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

We are also encouraged by the progress reported in the field of fisheries. We know from the experience of some of the remaining British dependent territories that revenue from licensing arrangements and the establishment of appropriate fishery-related enterprises can provide valuable income and employment. We welcome the training and assistance being provided to Palau by the Administering Authority in the field of fisheries enforcement.

Fisheries are only one example of the contribution of the Administering Authority to Palau's continuing advancement. We are glad to see that additional funds have been provided under the Capital Improvement Programme to allow for construction of a new hospital to go ahead. We also particularly welcome the Administering Authority's decision, in response to concerns expressed by the Government and people of Palau, to carry out a long-term project to improve the operation and maintenance of various public-works facilities and to rectify certain deficiencies in facilities provided under the Capital Improvement Programme.

The representatives of Palau have spoken of their desire for economic self-reliance. There is a difficult balance to be struck here. It is certainly the case that the economy of Palau remains excessively dependent on annual infusions of funds from the Administering Authority. Much of the money goes towards vital improvements in the Territory's infrastructure. But capital projects are not cost-free. The running costs and maintenance of new roads or hospitals can be heavy, and Palau's own tax base is inadequate to finance these continuing costs - although we welcome the improvement in tax collections reported this year. If a self-sustaining economy is to be achieved, two approaches will be necessary: a hard look at new spending projects, to ensure that they can be serviced after completion, and a growth in the local economy and therefore its tax base. In this

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

connection, therefore, the development of activities like tourism and fishing assumes additional significance, as does an expansion of the private sector's share of the economy more generally.

We are encouraged also by developments in the social field. The recent campaign mounted by the Administering Authority, in co-operation with the Government of Palau, against a number of those involved in drug trafficking has been a notable success. We are glad to note the continuation of other Federal programmes, for example in the areas of health and education, which are helping to improve standards of living throughout Palau.

I would now like to return to the question of Palau's future political status. My Government was privileged to be represented on the United Nations Visiting Mission which observed the recent plebiscite in Palau. It is not for us to comment on the result. Whether the fact that the Compact of Free Association was again not approved is good or bad for Palau - this is really a question for Palauans themselves. I would only like to make two points: first, that the plebiscite was conducted in a free, fair and democratic manner and that its result therefore represents the freely expressed wish of the Palauan people and, secondly, that whatever their views on the precise terms of the Compact and its subsidiary agreements, the majority of Palauans clearly favour the continuation of a close relationship, such as free association, with the United States, the nation which, as their Administering Authority, has given them generous assistance and guidance for over 40 years.

We hope that the current difficulties over Palau's future political status will soon be resolved. Palau is ready for self-government, as the Palauans themselves have amply demonstrated. The Trusteeship Agreement was never designed to last forever. It is certainly not in the best interests of the people of the

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

Trust Territory that it should. We note that the Palauan leadership and people are now reviewing their options. We wish them all success and promise them our support in their efforts to determine, at the earliest possible date, a future political status that accords with their wishes.

In conclusion, as regards the Northern Mariana Islands, we listened with attention to the petitions delivered by their representatives last week. It is clear that certain differences remain over the interpretation of the new status agreement between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. We continue to believe that such difficulties should be addressed in the context of the procedures mutually agreed under the Commonwealth Covenant.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for the kind words addressed to me.

Mr. MENAT (France) (interpretation from French): I wish first of all, Madam, to congratulate you once again on behalf of the French delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Trusteeship Council and on the manner in which you are carrying out your work.

Four years ago, at its fifty-third regular session, the Trusteeship Council adopted resolution 2183 (LIII), whose recommendations were intended to enable the four entities of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to accede fully to the status of their respective choice. On many occasions since then, the French delegation has advocated swift implementation of that resolution.

Accordingly, we welcomed the agreement reached exactly a year ago, on 26 May 1989 in Guam, by the Commission on Future Palau-United States Relations. That agreement opened the way for a seventh plebiscite for Palauans to take a position on the Compact of Free Association with the United States.

At its twentieth special session, in January, the Council was informed that the plebiscite would be held on 6 February 1990. The Trusteeship Council decided to send a Visiting Mission to Palau to observe the vote; we were pleased that, for the first time, a representative of the People's Republic of China participated. In its report the Visiting Mission concluded that the plebiscite had been held under free and proper conditions.

However, while 60 per cent of the population favoured the Compact of Free Association, the vote once again fell short of the constitutional majority of 75 per cent. My delegation hopes that appropriate solutions can be formulated in the near future to facilitate the entry into force of the status chosen by the people of Palau, which would further the emancipation of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Pending attainment of that objective, and so long as the Trusteeship Agreement remains in force, the Administering Authority must, of course, continue to carry

(Mr. Menat, France)

out its obligations under the Agreement. My delegation notes with satisfaction, this year as before, the assurances given by the United States delegation on this point.

My delegation also welcomes the recent advances made in the Trust Territory in the political, economic and social spheres and in the areas of education and tourism. We have studied carefully the information on this with respect to Palau in the most recent annual report of the Administering Authority. In particular, we welcome the Administering Authority's initiatives, in conformity with recommendations of the Trusteeship Council, to provide assistance in protecting Palau's marine resources.

We also listened with great interest to the very complete statement made by Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser of the Administering Authority, who described, inter alia, efforts in the area of public facilities, particularly hospitals.

My delegation is aware, however, of the difficulties that continue to exist and of the concerns felt by the people of Palau about the still uncertain prospects for the future. Those difficulties and concerns have been mentioned by such sources as the petitioners who addressed the Council. Even if some of them seemed excessively pessimistic, the fact remains that the major advances made in the archipelago with respect to the democratic nature of local institutions and to the people's standard of living have not yet totally remedied certain shortcomings, particularly a serious dependence on the outside, which are a source of legitimate concern for the citizens of Palau.

Nevertheless, my delegation reiterates its appreciation of the co-operation that has come about between Palau's leaders and the Administering Authority with a view to solving the remaining problems. We also take this opportunity to express

(Mr. Menat, France)

our thanks to the representatives of the Trust Territory who have been participating in this session of the Council.

With respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, my delegation has taken due note of the statements made by petitioners and welcomes the commencement of consultations under section 902 of the bilateral agreement between the United States Government and the Northern Marianas. We hope that the negotiations will be successful.

The position of the French delegation is well known. We want the inhabitants of the sole remaining Trust Territory to be able to exercise fully their right of self-determination as soon as possible. Accordingly, I reaffirm our hope that the obstacles still preventing those inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from acceding to the status of their choice will soon be overcome, with full respect for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Before concluding, I must thank the representatives of the Secretariat, who are contributing with ability, efficiency and devotion to the smooth working of the Council.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I cannot fail to begin my statement, Madam, by congratulating you once again on your election to the presidency of the Trusteeship Council and expressing to you our great appreciation of the able way in which you have guided our work.

The Soviet delegation has studied with care the report of the United States on its administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands - Micronesia - for the period 1 October 1988 to 30 September 1989. We also listened carefully to the introductory statement made by the delegation of the United States and to the statements made by petitioners. In addition, we have studied the working paper prepared by the Secretariat and the written petitions and communications sent to

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

the Trusteeship Council at the present session. That diversified, although not exhaustive, information gives us a certain picture of the situation in the Trust Territory.

We listened with interest to the statements made today in the general debate. These included some observations which deserve consideration and reflection.

We note that the Administering Authority submitted its annual report in a timely manner, and we wish to convey our appreciation to all who, preceding and during this session of the Trusteeship Council, tried to make a constructive contribution to the work of the Council with a view to helping it to carry out its very important tasks.

Consideration of the information before us and of the statements we have heard enables us to draw two related conclusions. It seems to us - and members have noted this - that during the reporting period representatives of the Administering Authority took certain steps to promote the development of the Trust Territory.

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

At the same time, we obviously cannot overlook the fact that, proceeding from the basic task of the trusteeship system as defined in the Charter of the United Nations, there are still serious problems in the economic, social, and political fields in the development of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands that require very careful consideration and specific action on the part of the Administering Authority and the Trusteeship Council. At this stage we hardly need to go into detail concerning those problems. Moreover, those points were also made at earlier meetings of the Council, by the delegation of Soviet Union among others. It would now seem that our task is to find the proper solution for those problems in the higher interests of the people of Micronesia. The international obligations assumed by the Administering Authority in this connection are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in the Trusteeship Agreement and in a number of other basic documents of the Organization.

Although the report of the Administering Authority deals with all parts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, specific information on the situation in the Territory, the problems that arise and the action taken by the Administering Authority is limited to one part of the Territory, namely, Palau. We hope that that omission will be remedied in the next report. We must also take into account that the problems facing the people of Palau - if we look at the essence of those problems - can in a sense be regarded as characteristic of the Trust Territory as a whole. That can be seen, inter alia, from statements made at the preceding session by representatives of the local authorities from the Northern Mariana islands, who expressed serious concern over the situation that has evolved there.

In the Soviet delegation's view, the obligation of the Administering Authority to provide the United Nations with information about the entire Trust Territory is

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

still in force and will remain so until the Security Council, which has responsibility under the Charter for the Trust Territory, takes a decision to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement. There would seem to be no doubt that that is fully consistent with the vital interests of the people of Micronesia, who clearly must be able to enjoy the support of the Trusteeship Council in order to promote their own political, economic and social development and the attainment of their inalienable right to self-determination.

In exercising its functions, the Trusteeship Council must carefully monitor the implementation of the task of safeguarding the rights and interests of the people in the Territory under United Nations trusteeship. That is provided for in the Charter of the United Nations, the Trusteeship Agreement and other relevant United Nations documents. It would seem that there is a general understanding of the importance in that respect of a responsible and carefully weighed approach, free from prejudice and ideological bias.

We are convinced that the foundation for such an approach can and must be respect for the priorities of universal human values, recognition of the primacy of the principles and norms of international law and efforts to bring about dialogue, co-operation and a joint search for mutually acceptable solutions. The key significance of these factors, we believe, is convincingly demonstrated by the entire process of the establishment of new international relationships during the present watershed period for mankind, a stage in global development which opens the post-confrontation period of the international community's activities.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for his kind words addressed to me.

We have now concluded the general debate for this morning.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As members will recall, at the 1678th meeting, the representative of the Soviet Union raised a question regarding the contents of paragraph 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, contained in document T/1947.

If members have no objection, I now call on the Secretary of the Council to answer the question posed by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. DE SOUZA (Secretary of the Council) (interpretation from French): As you reminded us a moment ago, Madam President, at the 1678th meeting of the Council, on Thursday, 24 May 1990, the representative of the Soviet Union asked us to whom the documents of the Trusteeship Council were sent. He was referring in particular to the 33 recipients mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report, contained in document T/1947. I should like to inform members of the Council that the 33 recipients in question are libraries, schools and political institutions throughout the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The distribution services of the Department of Conference Services sends the documents of the Council to them regularly and on a quasi-automatic basis.

However, throughout the year the Council secretariat also sends documents to non-governmental organizations, individuals and other recipients in the Territory or elsewhere in the world.

(Mr. De Souza)

During the Visiting Missions in 1989 and 1990, a few organizations and individuals, at public meetings and other meetings, expressed a desire to have the reports of the Visiting Missions and to receive Trusteeship Council documents in general. As happens in such cases, the accompanying Secretariat of the Mission took note of the requests and prepared an additional list of 40 additional recipients. This list included outstanding individuals, various organizations, reporters, Palau governmental authorities, members of the national parliament, and the Governors of the various States in Palau.

Thus, since 1989 the secretariat has sent reports and other Council documents to all of those who are on this new list. We are, of course in touch with the distribution service of the Organization, and we are trying to have this additional list made part of their list of recipients of Council documents. Therefore, starting in June of 1990, all those on this updated general list should be able to receive Council documents on a regular and quasi-automatic basis.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I note now that the representative of the Soviet Union has further comments to make. I now call on him.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would like to express my particular gratification at the additional information which the secretariat of the Council has just provided to us. I consider this a fairly substantial development, if I may call it that, in the activities of the secretariat of the Trusteeship Council in this area of the dissemination of information on the work of the Council itself and on the work of the United Nations as a whole.

I think that the report of the Secretary-General, which is before us, on this question of dissemination of information in the Trust Territory, would benefit from having such information included in it. Therefore, perhaps in future this could be

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

borne in mind and such updated information could be included. The present report mentions 33 recipients, but according to the information we have just been given, the correct figure is apparently 70 or more recipients.

We are pleased with the approach taken by the secretariat of the Trusteeship Council in respect of this important aspect of the activities of the Trusteeship Council.

Perhaps in passing I might note that, unfortunately, we did not receive such information from the representatives of the Department of Public Information; unfortunately, they were not able to provide us with information as to recipients of information made available by that Department. But no doubt, with proper efforts, such information could in principle be made available to the Trusteeship Council. As we see it, this approach of record-keeping and monitoring with respect to the fulfilment of their obligations would provide some discipline and help things along.

Once again, Madam President, I thank you and the Secretary of the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I am sure that the Secretary of the Council has taken due note of the points made by the representative of the Soviet Union with a view to the future. I believe that it is good to recall that we should receive information and that the more detailed the information the better it is for us, because that would make the Trusteeship Council's meetings as useful as possible.

If there are no other speakers on this item, I suggest that we decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (T/1947) on the dissemination of information on the United Nations in trust territories and conclude our consideration of agenda item 8. If I hear no objection from any delegation, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

APPOINTMENT OF A DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I believe that there is no other substantive item before the Council for consideration this morning. May I suggest some steps with a view to organizing our work efficiently in the course of this week.

The first suggestion relates to the establishment of the drafting committee for our report. As agreed in our informal consultations this morning, I would suggest that the Council should appoint a drafting committee whose terms of reference will be to prepare draft conclusions and recommendations for inclusion in the forthcoming report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.

I would remind members that this is in keeping with the custom we have followed in the past. Therefore, I suggest that the drafting committee should consist of the representatives of the United Kingdom and France.

If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In this connection, may I express the hope that the members of the Drafting Committee will be diligent in their work in preparing and circulating the draft text as soon as possible, so that all the delegations will have time to consider it and discuss it among themselves.

(The President)

In this connection, I would expect most of Thursday to be devoted to consultations between delegations, and therefore I trust that a first draft of the document will be available to delegations on Wednesday afternoon, about 6 p.m.

If there are no further comments on this, and if there is no objection, I suggest that we should not meet this afternoon. I believe that the various items still before us could be taken up after we hear the last petitioner tomorrow morning. So if all delegations accept my suggestion, we shall not meet this afternoon. Tomorrow morning we shall consider the report of the Secretary-General on credentials and take up the other substantive items still before us, including the hearing of the last petitioner, the examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority and the report of the Visiting Mission. I believe that is all, because items 7, 8, 9 and 10 have already been concluded.

If there are no further comments, we shall meet again tomorrow morning.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

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Distr.
GENERAL

T/PV.1680
7 June 1990

ENGLISH

Fifty-seventh session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 30 May 1990, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mrs. GAZEAU-SECRET (France)

- Report of the Secretary-General on credentials
- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1989: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)
- Examination of petitioners (continued)
- Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1990
- Programme of work

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Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As members will recall, at its 1673rd meeting, held on 8 January 1990, the Trusteeship Council decided to defer to the fifty-seventh session consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on credentials for the twentieth special session of the Council. In that connection, I wish to draw members' attention to document T/1946, containing the report of the Secretary-General for the twentieth special session.

If there are no comments, I suggest that the Council should decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on credentials for the twentieth special session.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council will now consider the report of the Secretary-General on credentials for the fifty-seventh session, contained in document T/1949. If there are no comments, I suggest that the Council should decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on credentials for the fifty-seventh session.

It was so decided.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (continued)

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONERS (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now hear Mr. Glenn Alcalay, whose request for hearing is contained in document T/PET.10/745.

I invite Mr. Alcalay to take a place at the petitioners' table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Alcalay took a place at the petitioners' table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on Mr. Glenn Alcalay.

Mr. ALCALAY: As a representative of the National Committee for Radiation Victims, I wish to thank the Trusteeship Council for the opportunity to appear before it once again concerning the current situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the last remaining Trust Territory. I also wish to extend my apologies for having been out of the country during the Council's regular hearing of petitioners, and I am grateful for the Council's courtesy in hearing me at this late date.

Having just returned from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, I shall base my remarks and comments on the insights and information gathered during my recent three-week visit.

As the Council has previously heard in the petition of Professor Roger Clark, a United States Department of Energy document regarding a United States contingency plan to resume atmospheric nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands has now surfaced. In what has been referred to as the Safeguard "C" memorandum of 23 March 1982, Herman Roser, Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs for the Department of Energy, laid bare a secret scheme for the possible resumption of above-ground nuclear testing in the already contaminated Marshall Islands:

> "When the DOE [Department of Energy] was created in 1977, responsibility for the Marshall Islands program was assigned to EP [Environmental Protection]. With the exception of the professional medical capability, the technical resources that are in use in the Marshall Islands are largely weapons-programs-related, and most of the DOE's logistic and support base is common to the Safeguard 'C' readiness programme. Safeguard 'C' is one of the four safeguards in the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and requires the United States to maintain the capability to resume atmospheric testing. In fact, much of

(Mr. Alcalay)

the field effort in the Marshall Islands is an exercise of the expeditionary capability which is an important aspect of the Defense Programs' Safeguard 'C'."

In his letter of 3 May to Marshall Islands President Amata Kabua, Rongelap Senator Jeton Anjain stated that

"the Marshall Islands were maintained as a test site - a very special kind of test site. Only the nature of the test has changed. From testing bombs and weapons, DOE undertook long-term human and environmental testing so they [the Administering Authority] would understand the long-term effects of radiation should the U.S. be required by political or military circumstances to use such weapons again in the future."

Senator Anjain also requested in the letter to his President that he should file a

"diplomatic protest with the United States Government in the appropriate manner in which you, on behalf of Rongelap and all other Marshallese people, demand a full and complete accounting of what the Department of Energy did, why they did it, and why it was kept secret."

Senator Anjain also asked President Kabua to inquire whether Safeguard C violates the letter and the spirit of the Compact of Free Association, which distinctly prohibits the detonation of any nuclear weapon in the Marshall Islands. It should be noted that I have provided the Council Secretary with copies of both the 1982 Department of Energy memorandum and Senator Jeton Anjain's letter.

(Mr. Alcalay)

While in Majuro and Ebeye during the release of the Safeguard "C" document - and as advertised by a headline story in the 11 May 1990 Marshall Islands Journal - it was my impression, as a fluent speaker of the Marshallese language who spoke at great length with many of the island leaders, that most Marshallese I encountered, including several senators to the Nitajela or Parliament, some Cabinet members, traditional iroij or chiefs and ordinary Marshallese, were stunned by this newest revelation about hidden United States strategic realpolitik in their islands.

In his May 1990 report on the South Pacific, Congressman Stephen Solarz, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs of the United States House of Representatives, reported that there is

"perceived United States support for the French nuclear testing programme in the South Pacific"

and Solarz recommended that the United States sign the protocols of the Treaty of Rarotonga, known as the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. Not surprisingly, many in the Marshall Islands, after the release of the Safeguard "C" document, likewise questioned the Administering Authority's nuclear intransigence and the further threatened assault on their sovereignty as a fledgling republic.

Quite recently, two independent researchers discovered that the spread of caesium-137 was far more extensive than previously believed. Caesium, a man-made isotope that comes from atomic and hydrogen bomb testing, was discovered on six atolls in the northern Marshall Islands, in addition to Bikini, Eniwetok, Rongelap and Utirik, by health physicist Nathan Greenhouse and epidemiologist Thomas Hamilton. That finding portends that the health and environmental damage from the nuclear-testing era is still surfacing as we move into the 1990s. It is hardly a wonder that the Administering Authority pushed so hard to remove the more than $5 billion in lawsuits under the so-called espousal clause of section 177 of the Compact.

(Mr. Alcalay)

Even the Council's own Visiting Mission to the September 1983 Marshall Islands plebiscite stated that

"The United States insists upon the espousal of claims and has stated there cannot be a compact of free association for the Marshall Islands without a radiation agreement (177) that includes espousal". (T/1865, annex IV, para. 2) In fact, the Visiting Mission concluded that "No other subject attracted comparable attention in the campaign" (para. 30).

While in Mejato - the island for relocated Rongelap people - with Senator Anjain recently, I learned that several Rongelap islanders are considering yet another move, to Eneko island in the Majuro atoll. The feeling of many is that medical emergencies will be easier to deal with if they are closer to the more adequate facilities on Majuro than on Ebeye. Additionally, it is universally felt that Mejato is only a temporary move in a culture where land means everything. "A Marshallese without land is no Marshallese at all." This further threatened sociological dislocation and uncertainty in the midst of the Bikini and Eniwetok dislocations loudly bespeaks the great and historic distrust between the United States Government, and in particular the Department of Energy, and people who were on the receiving end of the United States hydrogen-bomb programme.

We have heard of the plan to ship household garbage from the west coast of the United States to the Marshall Islands. In a rift between the principal heads of the Seattle-based Admiralty Pacific Company last year, it was learned that the supposedly benign household garbage, which will contain toxic leachates, was intended to hide shipments of nuclear waste from a New Jersey company. Following his exposure of the nuclear-waste plan, Daniel Fleming broke with Admiralty Pacific, started his own company, called MicroMar, and is moving ahead to ship west-coast household garbage as in the original plan.

(Mr. Alcalay)

James Thompson of Admiralty Pacific, obviously feeling the fallout over the proposed nuclear-waste scheme, has now switched to selling mountains of used tyres from Canada and the United States to form "artificial reefs" in the Marshalls. As any ship captain who has had to manoeuvre delicately through the treacherous shoals and coral heads throughout the Marshalls can readily aver, about the last thing the Marshall islanders need is more reefs. That more than 40 other third-world nations, including several cash-poor Pacific island nations, rejected the garbage plan outright should tell us something about the nature of the great economic dependency intentionally instituted, in the manner of the infamous 1963 Solomon report in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Marshalls in particular.

In addition to their views on the "artificial reefs" being proposed by Admiralty Pacific and MicroMar, the overwhelming sentiment among many Marshallese political and business leaders I recently encountered concerns the very great uncertainty that awaits them as the Compact spigot runs dry in the year 2001. Built upon an artificial reef of annual cash infusions from the United States Treasury, the artificial and asymmetrical economy of the Marshall Islands opens some island leaders to such preposterous and potentially threatening schemes as accepting first-world garbage, in opposition to the United Nations Environment Programme's concern about the international trade in waste, which always ends up in the third world.

While in the Marshall Islands recently, I was deluged by the opinion that "Ebeye has been really turned around compared to just five years ago". I was in Ebeye five years ago, and I was also in Ebeye 10 and 15 years ago. It must be stated from the outset that Mayor Alvin Jacklick and the rest of his Kwajalein atoll local government have done a Herculean job of bringing water, electricity and a paved road and sidewalk to the "slum of the Pacific", and in that connection they

(Mr. Alcalay)

deserve all the credit for turning that inhospitable island into a little less inhospitable place. But Ebeye is still Ebeye, where throngs of young children play in the streets, dodging the endless stream of cars and taxis, because they have no other place to play and enjoy recreation. With 55 per cent of the Marshallese population of 50,000 - and 55 per cent of Ebeye's population of 10,000 - 14 years old or younger, we are looking at a demographic time-bomb which threatens to explode in the immediate future.

Ebeye, with its unprecedented male suicide epidemic, high unemployment rate, cramped packing-crate houses where it is common for a family of 12 to live in a single room, increasing crime and violence and looming despair and degradation, is an aberration throughout the entire Pacific and exists solely because of the United States missile base at Kwajalein. If there were no missile base, there would be no Ebeye. As a social scientist long concerned about the appalling conditions at Ebeye, I have believed that the furtherance of United States strategic interests should not be carried out on the backs of the Marshallese people, a society already reeling from the effects, many of them still unknown, of nuclear testing and massive sociological dislocation. Perhaps as the cold war winds down, the Administering Authority will see fit to phase out its Kwajalein programmes, both to reduce super-Power tensions and to benefit Marshallese society and culture by severely reducing the United States military presence in the region.

(Mr. Alcalay)

In this regard the recent Palau plebiscite of 6 February, whereby the Compact received the lowest voter support yet, demonstrates that, where the will of a people - as the United States painfully learned in Viet Nam - confronts the greatest military might, the will of the people shall prevail. It can only be hoped that the Administering Authority will take a lesson from its counterpart in the Soviet Union, where President Mikhail Gorbachev unilaterally cut the Soviet miulitary presence at Cam Ranh Bay, and will likewise draw down United States forces and bases in the Asia-Pacific region to increase international stability in the increasingly amiable climate between the super-Powers.

In conclusion, I offer the following recommendations for the Administering Authority. First, the Administering Authority - and the United States Congress in particular - should be urged to release the funding for the Phase II Rongelap independent assessment to ascertain whether Rongelap Atoll is safe for the inhabitants to return or whether those unfortunate people must now and forever abandon any prospect of safely returning home to resume their livelihoods. Secondly, the Administering Authority should be urged to consider expanding the Section 177 nuclear trust fund if it is demonstrated that the radioactive fallout contamination is far more extensive than previously reported. Thirdly, the Administering Authority should respond to Rongelap Senator Anjain's letter of 3 May 1990 to President Amata Kabua concerning the Safeguard "C" plan to resume atmospheric nuclear testing in the Marshalls and determine whether Safeguard "C" violates the provisions of the Compact. Lastly, the Administering Authority should be requested to delete the military provisions of the Palau Compact as an act of good faith by the United States Government in the light of the now ludicrous series of failed plebiscites and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and with the declared United Nations International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Since no member of the Council wishes to ask the petitioner any questions, I invite him to withdraw from the petitioners' table.

We have just heard the last petitioner for this session. I understand that the representative of the Administering Authority wishes to make a statement, and I now call upon him.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): As our delegation promised last week, we are prepared to address the issues raised by the various written and oral petitions during this session.

There is considerable overlap between petitioners. They generally focused on a limited set of major themes, which, with some slight exceptions, can be grouped into four categories: first, the issue of the Administering Authority's role regarding the Compact and the Palauan Constitution; secondly, the alleged militarization of Palau; thirdly, the economic viability of the Republic of Palau after termination and, lastly, the responsibilities of the Administering Authority regarding the day-to-day conduct of business in Palau. There are one or two significant points outside of those categories, and I will also address them, as appropriate.

Let me first take up the issue, referred to many times in the written petitions and in several of the oral presentations, of the United States role with respect to plebiscites on the Compact of Free Association. The record is clear that in all seven plebiscites it was the Government of Palau - that is to say, the Palauan National Congress and its executive branch - which decided the dates of the plebiscites, the wording of the ballot and the conditions for the conduct of the plebiscites. At no time did the Administering Authority force, coerce or otherwise influence those decisions on the part of the Government of Palau. The decisions were the Palauan Government's alone to make.

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

In addition, some have asserted that the Administering Authority is attempting to force a Compact on the people that is unpalatable to them and contrary to their Constitution. Those are false and misleading charges. As the Council knows, the Compact of Free Association between the United States and Palau is a negotiated document reached through compromise and negotiation between the parties, which fully respected each other's views and desires. In addition, several years ago the Compact was amended by mutual agreement to make it compatible with the Constitution of Palau, and the courts of Palau have continued to interpret the Constitution as requiring 75 per cent ratification of the Compact.

It is at the same time true that we as Administering Authority wish to terminate the trusteeship for Palau as soon as possible. Our attitude on this is in full concurrence with Trusteeship Council resolution 2183 (LIII) and, we believe, with the wishes of the people of Palau. We have made it abundantly clear that the decision is up to the people of Palau. The opening statement of Assistant Secretary of the Interior Guerra reaffirmed that position before the Council.

A second theme of the petitioners, the alleged militarization of Palau, is simple to address. There is not now any militarization of Palau, nor are there plans to establish military bases or facilities there. Moreover, we would note that under the Trusteeship Agreement currently in force, the Administering Authority has long had military rights in the Territory and has never acted on those rights.

The only military presence in Palau - and this has been verified by several Visiting Missions from the Council - is a 13-man Civic Action Team from the United States Navy. They are drawn from United States Navy "Seabees," or construction support personnel, and their only purposes in Palau are to assist the local people in the construction of small-scale projects of a public-service nature, to train

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

local people in construction techniques and to provide emergency medical aid through the medical technician assigned to the Team. The teams rotate every eight months or so and have been one of the most popular of our projects in the Territory. In sum, the argument that the Administering Authority is contemplating militarization of Palau is without foundation.

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

Turning to the next common petitioner theme, I note that it is argued that Palau is not sufficiently developed economically to stand on its own upon termination of the trusteeship. In general, we fully share the concern about Palau's economic development. We would, however, reiterate the point that there is no universally accepted criterion of self-sufficiency before trusteeship termination can take place. Indeed, if history is any guide, Palau is well past the level of development at which others have made the change in question.

Certainly, much progress has been made in Palau. By either measurement, per capita gross domestic product or per capita income, Palau is well ahead of most other Pacific island nations. In fact, it is well ahead of many countries around the world. There are paved roads in the major populated areas; a new hospital is under construction; there is electric power; there are hotels and tourist facilities. I could go on with a list that compares more than favourably to any similar entity. We have, as the Assistant Secretary stated in her opening remarks, a new operations-and-maintenance project worth millions of dollars under way in Palau that will bring many earlier capital-improvements projects up to their original specifications. Within that framework, the United States administration and Congress will continue to work with the Palauan Government to establish priorities and make plans for resource allocation. In that context, with reference to a point raised by the representative of China, I would note that all aspects of infrastructure development are being addressed, including maintenance and/or expansion of the 50 miles of paved roads already built in Palau.

As I stated earlier, there is no prescribed standard to which the Administering Authority can be held before a Trust Territory can be granted the full measure of self-government. For some, it seems that only a replication of Hawaii's high standards of living would be enough. For others, impatience for self-government eclipses any desire for economic development.

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

We believe that for Palau the reality lies somewhere in between. Moreover, with the adoption of the Compact, there are myriad development projects that are guaranteed during the life of the Compact. If Palauans should choose a different political status, we shall seek other arrangements, as appropriate, to provide development assistance.

In sum, we fully agree with the principle expressed by the United Nations that the level of economic development should not be a consideration in the granting of self-government to a Trust Territory, and in particular we believe that Palau is more than ready to move ahead.

We come to the final issue raised by several petitioners - the continuing responsibility of the Administering Authority pending adoption of some future political status by Palau. I can assure the Council that the United States as Administering Authority will continue to live up to the letter and spirit of all its obligations in that regard. And, with particular reference to bilateral Palau-United States agreements, we shall continue as well to implement all appropriate provisions thereunder.

We call to mind as well the conclusions of the United States Congressional General Accounting Office concerning inadequate oversight by the United States Government over public administration in Palau. As we stated in our opening remarks, we have taken many of the General Accounting Office's recommendations to heart. In the near future, we shall be sending a high-level official to be assigned to the Trust Territory to monitor budgetary and other activities that have proven susceptible to problems in the past. Such problems could have been avoided with proper guidance and advice, and we expect to work closely with the Government of Palau on doing so in the future.

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

That, in conclusion, addresses the main themes raised by the petitioners. We wish to express our appreciation to the many oral and written petitioners for their interest in and concern about the future of Palau. Again, we note that many of the written petitions have been overtaken by recent developments and that many were based on outdated information. We do not question their sincerity, however, and we would invite them to write directly to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior for up-to-date and accurate information concerning the administration of the Trust Territory. We have responded directly to those questions that were addressed to the United States Government, and we shall continue to do so.

With respect to those presentations not related to Palau, we must repeat what was stated in Assistant Secretary Guerra's opening statement - that we stand fully behind conclusion 4 of the Trusteeship Council's report to the Security Council last year and would again suggest that established bilateral mechanisms should be employed to resolve real or perceived differences.

We should also like to applaud the petitioner who named Palau as number one of the Seven Underwater Wonders of the world. We fully agree that the beauty and wonders of Palau's ecology and environment, both marine and terrestrial, must be protected and preserved. We shall continue to work with the authorities of Palau to safeguard the environment in the light of the growth of the tourism sector and other economic activities.

I am grateful for this opportunity to reply to the petitioners. Should there be further detailed questions, my delegation stands ready to respond.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If there are no further speakers, the Council has thus concluded consideration of this agenda item.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO PALAU, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 1990 (T/1942)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In connection with this item, I should like to draw members' attention to draft resolution T/L.1275, which was sponsored by three delegations and which takes notes of the Visiting Mission's report and expresses our appreciation of the work accomplished on our behalf by the Visiting Mission.

I now call on the representative of the United Kingdom, who will introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): I have the honour on behalf of the three delegations which are sponsoring the draft resolution - namely, China, France and the United Kingdom - to introduce draft resolution T/L.1275. The President has already summarized the main characteristics of the draft resolution, so I simply would like to point out that it very closely follows similar resolutions the Council has adopted in previous years in relation to earlier Visiting Missions. In particular, the two operative paragraphs are identical with those of earlier resolutions of this kind.

I therefore hope that it will be possible for us at one of our coming meetings to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Since no delegation wishes to comment on the draft resolution today, I would suggest that the Council should take a decision on the draft resolution at its next meeting. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before I adjourn this morning's meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea has asked to make a statement, and I now call upon him.

Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea): I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Council, through you, Madam President, for allowing our Government and delegation to participate in the process of self-determination under the Trusteeship Agreement. We believe and will continue to believe that the rights of the people of Palau and the aspirations of the people of Palau must be the paramount consideration, and, having said that, I should like to thank you and the Council once more for allowing us to participate in the process of self-determination in Palau.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): On behalf of the Council, I should like to say that we have been very pleased with the participation of the Ambassador of Papua New Guinea and his delegation in the Council's work.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to say a few words about the Council's programme of work. This afternoon the Drafting Committee is to meet, and there will therefore be no meeting of the Council. I think that the Drafting Committee will be able to circulate its draft conclusions and recommendations by the end of the afternoon, as planned. Thus, other delegations can have them sufficiently far in advance to hold consultations this afternoon or tomorrow, either among themselves or with members of the Drafting Committee. I would therefore also suggest that there should be no meeting of the Council tomorrow, so that delegations may continue their consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations. Theoretically, and I hope that this will prove to be true, the consultations should lead tomorrow to the drafting of a final text that could be issued on Friday as an official document of the Council.

If I hear no objections, therefore, I suggest that tomorrow we should devote all our efforts to the finalization of this part of our report in consultations and not hold an official meeting of the Council. The next meeting of the Council will be at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 1 June, at which time the Council will hope to conclude its work by hearing final statements from the Administering Authority, if it so desires, and any other delegation that wishes to speak. Secondly, the Council will take a decision concerning draft resolution T/L.1275, which has just been introduced by the representative of the United Kingdom, on the report of the Visiting Mission to Palau and also take a decision concerning the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Trusteeship Council, which will subsequently be included

(The President)

in the report of this session. Thirdly, the Council will consider agenda items 11 and 12, which are still open; and, lastly, the Council will suspend the session, which will be resumed, if necessary, before the next session of the General Assembly, that is, some time during the month of August.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees with what I have suggested.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

UNITED
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Trusteeship Council

Distr.
GENERAL

T/PV.1681
7 June 1990

ENGLISH

Fifty-seventh session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 1 June 1990, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mrs. GAZEAU-SECRET (France)

- Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1990 (continued)

- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority (continued)

- Report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council

- Attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories (Trusteeship Council resolution 1369 (XVII) and General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV) and the situation in the Trust Territories with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 44/101) (continued)

/...

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- Co-operation with the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI)) (continued)

- Suspension of the session

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO PALAU, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 1990 (T/1942 and T/L.1275) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In connection with this item, I should like to draw members' attention to draft resolution T/L.1275, which was introduced by the representative of the United Kingdom at the 1680th meeting of the Council on 30 May 1990.

If there are no comments, may I take it that the Council decides to adopt draft resolution T/L.1275 without a vote?

The draft resolution was adopted.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In connection with this item, I call on representatives of the Administering Authority to make closing statements.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): We appreciate the opportunity to make a closing statement. I would like first to ask the Special Representative Adviser of the Government of Palau within our delegation, Mr. Victor Uherbelau, to give the first part of our closing statement.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative Adviser): We have listened attentively during the past two weeks to statements and petitions regarding the conditions of Palau for the year under review. As the fifty-seventh annual session draws to a close, there does not seem to be much to comment on or new matters to bring up. I shall therefore be brief.

The Republic's deep concern over the inadequacies of infrastructure projects basic to our present and future economic well-being and self-sufficiency is a real one. It has been so for many years. Without minimum access roads in the big island of Babelthuap, transportation by land to the outlying villages and hamlets continues to be a dream unrealized. Our people commute daily to Koror, the

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser)

commercial center, by outboard motor boats. That mode of travel has proved prohibitively expensive and, in low tides, extremely hazardous.

While the Ipseco power plant is indeed producing adequate power to service the entire Koror population in the residential, commercial and public sectors, we experience intermittent electric-power brown-outs. That is mainly due to defective and old transmission lines. The public water system runs less than 24 hours a day, owing to leakage in the underground mains.

We are encouraged, however, by statements made by Assistant Secretary Guerra of the Department of the Interior and by Ambassador Wilkinson's response to the petitioners concerning public-works projects to the effect that that the Administering Authority is taking positive steps towards remedying the problems in the capital improvement projects. We are hopeful that by this time next year, we will together present a more favourable report on that aspect of the Administering Authority's trust obligation.

I shall now move on to the existing relationship between Palau and the United States and the plan to enhance the physical presence of Department of the Interior personnel in Palau. We trust that this is in partial compliance with certain recommendations of the General Accounting Office. We do welcome the United States Federal Government's expertise, especially in the field of budgetary matters and financial management. We simply ask, however, that the advisers and experts should not take over vital functions of the Government that heretofore have been carried out by Palauan nationals themselves. To do otherwise will only be a disservice to my people and detract from them the measure of self-rule achieved over the last 10 years of operating under our own constitutional Government. Assistant Secretary Guerra is too conscientious an administrator to permit that. Under her tutelage, the programme cannot but succeed and advance the interests of the Palauan people.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser)

We also welcome the planned establishment of the Pacific Office at Honolulu, which would provide support services and other needed assistance to the Palau Department of the Interior Field Representative Office. We understand that that Office will also have a multifaceted function dealing with other United States Pacific insular areas and territories. We also hope that it will serve as a catalyst for the co-ordination of United States Federal programmes and as a midway clearing house for our numerous requests for technical and other assistance that need prompt attention.

It is gratifying to note that the major principal officers of the United States executive branch directly involved in the oversight administration of Palau, as the remaining component of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, are co-operatively working together.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser)

I am, of course, speaking of His Excellency Ambassador Wilkinson, Department of the Interior, Assistant Secretary Guerra and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mrs. Marilyn Meyers. As one who has been a member of Palau's official delegations to your annual sessions for the past 10 years, I can personally testify as to the right attitude and sincerity of these three individuals and their resolve not only to address but collectively to find solutions to our problems. I commend them to the Trusteeship Council, and trust they will maintain an ongoing dialogue and the exchange of vital information among themselves so as to carry out well the co-ordinated oversight responsibility for the Administering Authority.

Moving on to Palau's relations with other foreign countries, we are extremely thankful to the Administering Authority, which, given our present Trusteeship status, has encouraged Palau to assume certain governmental functions in foreign affairs and international relations. As was reported in our opening statement, we are a full-fledged member of the Forum Fisheries Agency and we actively take part in its regional programmes and activities. We are also a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of the Environment of the South Pacific Region, commonly known as the SPREP Convention, and its two protocols, and, with technical legal assistance from the Government of New Zealand, soon the SPREP Convention, accompanied by implementing legislation, will be forwarded to the Palau National Congress for ratification. We do have bilateral arrangements with both Australia and New Zealand whereby our high-school teachers, as well as nurses and medical and health technicians, are accepted for both short- and long-term refresher courses in institutions of those two countries. We also have bilateral grant-aid agreements with Japan whereby the Government of Japan donates construction materials and technical expertise in the building of fisheries dock projects in four of our 16 States.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser)

We have had visitors from the French Consulate General in Honolulu and from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Manila, as well as from other official dignataries from other foreign countries and regional and international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the South Pacific Commission and the like. They came to assess our needs and offered assistance as appropriate.

The issue of political status is to be commented on last, intentionally, in that little can be added to what was covered in our opening statement. But I feel a word of caution is in order here. The Palauan voters have not rejected the Compact of Free Association as a political status option open to them. Free association clearly has predominated over independence or closer relations, as distinct from freely associated status, with the United States in two of the seven plebiscites when those options were on the ballot. Even the 60.8 per cent result of the last, seventh, plebiscite is an overwhelming majority vote in any referendum when a simple majority is the yardstick for a favourable outcome.

In this connection, and with the permission of the British delegation, allow me to echo its conclusion, which eloquently expresses our sentiments, in stating that

> "whatever their views on the precise terms of the Compact and its subsidiary agreements, the majority of Palauans clearly favour the continuation of a close relationship such as free association with the United States".

It is therefore incumbent upon the leadership of the Republic to find a way to reach out to its people and to lead them onward to an internally self-governing nation freely associated with its former trustee and generous mentor, the United States of America.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser)

Our search for our ultimate future status has been a long and at times arduous one. In the poet Robert Frost's words,

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep ...

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep."

Adios, bon voyage and goodbye, Madame President and the staff and members of the Council. I thank you one and all.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on Miss Stella Guerra, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior.

Ms. GUERRA (Special Adviser): Once again it is time to conclude our deliberations. For my part, I have learned a great deal from the members of the Council, as well as from other speakers, including the petitioners, which will help in making decisions concerning the continued exercise of trusteeship administration in Palau.

Once again I wish to reassure the Council that the Administering Authority is committed to taking its responsibilities very seriously. To that end I should like briefly to summarize some of our developmental programmes and projects which have been committed for this fiscal year and those projects for 1991. I believe that that will address not only some of the concerns of the petitioners but also some of the issues brought up during the general debate earlier this week.

In addition to the $15.1 million for regular operations this year, 1990, and next, which will include funding for the College of Micronesia and satellite communications, we have the following programmes either in place or being prepared for next year: a road-system repair project budgeted in the amount of $476,000 under the capital improvements programme; $980,000 has been set aside for repairs to the Koror-Babelthaup Bridge and $35,000 for Koror Airai Electrical

(Ms. Guerra, Special Adviser)

Transmission. This is in addition to money that has been made available for the new hospital and renovations to the Palau gaol mentioned in our earlier remarks.

Special projects to meet special needs have also been instituted. As a follow-up to the Guam Accords, we have made $247,000 available for the setting up of offices for a special prosecutor and a public auditor. An additional $300,000 has been requested for these programmes for next year.

In continued recognition of our responsibilities to curtail the traffic in controlled substances, we have requested $400,000 for assistance in drug interdiction and prevention of drug abuse in our 1991 budget. As part of the operations and maintenance programme mentioned in earlier statements, we have set aside $100,000 to hire a private contractor to evaluate the needs of Palau and develop an action plan. This team has just completed its on-site evaluations.

(Ms. Guerra, Special Adviser)

Two hundred thousand dollars has been requested for the beginning of implementation of the action plan; and $430,000 has been requested for next year, again for this project of operations and maintenance.

And for several years now, the Department of the Interior has had a technical assistance programme that funds a wide variety of smaller projects which are intended to have a beneficial long-term effect in Palau. I will not list all of them here, but I will be glad to provide a sample.

An example is a $200,000 grant that has been allocated to the Sisters of Mercy to administer the Palau hospital, including addition of the services of a financial adviser to the hospital.

A $220,000 grant has been allocated for technical assistance to evaluate the possible privatization of the Palau power plant.

A $150,000 grant has been made available to the Army Corps of Engineers to provide technical advisory services to Palau; and $127,000 has been allocated to the provision of computer systems for the Palau hospital and the pension system.

Smaller projects include grants for hiring tax and revenue advisors, law-enforcement training and participation by Palauan students in the very successful "close-up" programme, an educational programme.

These are but a sampling of the technical-assistance grants which we have made to Palau in recent months alone and which fall outside the normal budgetary process. Next year, we estimate, an additional $800,000 in similar projects will be funded.

Now I should like to touch briefly on the political situation in Palau. As this delegation has stated several times this year, the political future of Palau is up to the people of Palau. They will decide when they will vote again, for what they will vote and under what conditions that vote will be taken. This is their right and their responsibility.

(Ms. Guerra, Special Adviser)

We endorse the remarks of the delegations of the United Kingdom and France to the effect that the people of Palau are highly developed politically. We fully agree with the Trusteeship Council resolution 2183 (LIII) concerning the readiness of all parts of the Trust Territory for complete self-government. We believe that Palau is ready.

In the meantime we are prepared to carry out our administering responsibilities. To this end, as I stated in my opening statement two weeks ago, we are preparing to open an expanded office of the Office of Territorial and International Affairs at Honolulu, which will provide more readily available support facilities for an upgraded presence of the Administering Authority based in Palau. We are heeding the recommendations made by this Council in past years and those of various other agencies, including the United States Congress, which have urged us to play a more active role in guiding and shaping the administration of Palau during the interim period prior to termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. We shall have a resident representative with substantial responsibilities for providing advice and direction to the local government in Palau. This will especially affect the budgetary process. Coupled with the technical assistance projects outlined earlier, this approach should provide the constitutional authorities with a better idea of how to manage their resources and live within their budgetary means.

We also encourage Palau's contact with regional and international organizations, and shall, through our own State Department, facilitate Government-to-Government relations as appropriate.

It is my fervent hope that we will have the opportunity to invite this Council to witness a final act of self-determination in the very near future. In the meantime we shall await the decision of the people of Palau.

(Ms. Guerra, Special Adviser)

Turning now to another area, I should like to say special thanks to the Soviet delegation for their remarks in the general debate on Tuesday. I understand that the timing of the receipt of the annual report in this Council has caused some consternation in past years. This year the earlier delivery of the report permitted Council members a more leisurely perusal. The Administering Authority wishes to assure the Council that in the year to come every effort will be made to see to it that this report is done in the same prompt and comprehensive fashion as it was this year.

We wish also to concur with the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom concerning the long-term cost of some capital investment programmes. We share this concern for the future, and along these lines, we are currently examining several projects with special scrutiny before final approval.

Again, I wish to express my appreciation and that of my delegation for the hospitality of the Council, its members and the Secretariat. I look forward to next year's session, although with mixed emotions, only because circumstances do not let us conclude this session as the final one in the history of the Trusteeship system. I am pleased to assure this Council that in the year to come my office will stand ready to provide any assistance or information required at any time. It has been a pleasure working with the Council, and I thank you.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): As we come again to the closing hours of the Trusteeship Council's session, my delegation would characterize this as an especially informative, constructive and smooth-running session of the Trusteeship Council. I wish, on behalf of the Administering Authority and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, to express our appreciation to you, Madam, as this session's President, to the Secretariat staff, the interpreters, the members of the Trusteeship Council and the petitioners for

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

their efforts, useful presentations, commentary, questioning and the discussion which have taken place during this fifty-seventh session of the Council.

As for those of us in the United States delegation participating in these deliberations for the first time, we leave this experience better informed and more committed than ever to working closely with the United Nations, the members of the Trusteeship Council and the people of Palau to advance the Territory along the road to full self-government through self-determination.

The Special Representative of the Republic of Palau spoke in his opening statement of the need for Palau to become economically self-sufficient, to build and diversify its economy through continued development of its infrastructure, increased foreign investment and international treaties and agreements. The United States is in complete accord with the stated goals of the Government of Palau and supports all efforts undertaken by the people of Palau to move towards self-sufficiency. While clearly all obstacles to economic self-sufficiency cannot be tackled simultaneously, we believe that the setting of priorities and the construction of a longer-term strategy necessary for economic development are off to a good start.

Regarding Palau's 6 February plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association, it is important - as others have noted - to remember that, for the seventh time, the Compact was supported by a majority of the voters, even though not by the 75 per cent required for ratification under the Palau Constitution.

We have noted also from the opening statement of the Special Representative of Palau that there are differing views among the Palauan people and their people concerning ways to proceed from here. We wish the people of Palau every success as they consider their options for the future.

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

Despite the frustration felt by many at the fact that the plebiscites have not been able to resolve the status of Palau, the fair and open election in February, verified by the Trusteeship Council's Visiting Mission, and the lively discussion concerning Palau's future contributed to the Territory's exercise of democracy, freedom of expression and freedom of choice. Until such time as the people of Palau ratify the Compact in accordance with their own constitutional provisions or resolve their future status in some other fashion, the United States will continue to fulfil its role as Trustee. That role is a rewarding one. It allows us to engage in a very direct way in the process of economic development, to learn from the people of Palau how best to co-operate with them in building a better community and to help foster democratic processes in another part of the globe.

We attach the utmost importance to this role. Assisting in the evolution of the Trust Territory to independent or freely associated status, a process which was formally recognized by this body in 1986, is an obligation which the United States Government undertook from the United Nations in the belief that all peoples share the right of self-determination. The Trusteeship Council has always been a key player in overseeing the ways in which the United States meets this international obligation. The constructive participation of all Council delegations during this session has been of great value to us in our role. We thank the Council for its devotion to its task, both in the past and during this latest and most fruitful session.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the Administering Authority for the kind words addressed to me. It is now my pleasant duty to thank him for his active contribution to our examination of this report. In particular I should also like to thank those who came from Palau, from so far away, in particular the Special Representative Adviser, Mr. Victor Uherbelau,

(The President)

Mr. Pablo Temol, and the others who took the trouble to come here to meet with us. I also thank the other representatives of Palau who came here either from Palau or from Washington, Mr. Samuel McPhetres and his colleagues. I believe that their contribution was absolutely indispensable to our work and that it has been very constructive, interesting and active. That enabled us in the Council to have a thorough and in-depth discussion, thanks to the various statements and explanations given by the colleagues and the representatives of the Trust Territory. On behalf of the Council I extend my thanks once again to the representatives of Palau for their participation and wish them a good trip home. I should like also to thank the members of the United States delegation who came here from Washington.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We turn now to the next item on our agenda - an important item - the report of the Drafting Committee, which has been issued in document T/L.1276. I call upon the representative of France to introduce the report.

Mr. MENAT (France) (interpretation from French): The report of the Drafting Committee, appointed on 29 May 1990 by the Council, was issued this morning as a document of the Trusteeship Council. The Drafting Committee held one meeting and then conducted consultations with members of the Council. Those consultations continued until today, as is indicated in the report. The report also indicates that the Drafting Committee decided to forward to the Council for its consideration draft conclusions and recommendations, which are annexed to the report.

As usual, there are three parts to the report.

The first section deals with political advancement, section A. I would draw attention to paragraph 1. Following consultations, which were continued until this

(Mr. Menat, France)

morning, the members of the Drafting Committee would like to suggest a change in the text. The word "recalls" would be replaced by the word "notes".

Paragraph 2 is traditionally devoted to consideration of the political situation in the Territory. It takes due account of the developments described during the session. It indicates that a plebiscite was held on 6 February in Palau and it notes the results and the decisions taken by the Government of Palau and by the Administering Authority.

Section B deals with economic, social and educational advancement. Paragraphs 3 and 4 are general in nature and are similar to paragraphs in last year's report.

Paragraphs 5 and 6 take up concerns expressed by the Government of Palau on the economic development and self-sufficiency of the Territory and note recent progress in this area. Paragraph 6 refers to measures taken by the Administering Authority in various areas: fisheries, the campaign against drug trafficking and abuse, public health and safety and the operation and maintenance of public-works facilities. The paragraph suggests to the Trusteeship Council that it might express the hope that further progress will be made in those fields.

The third section of the report deals with general considerations. As was done last year, we suggest that the Council note with satisfaction the assurances given by the Administering Authority, which have been given once again today, that it will continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of France for his statement on the draft conclusions and recommendations in document T/L.1276. I believe that the document was made available only this morning, so there is a little delay in our work, given that the consultations

(The President)

lasted a day and a half. Are all members of the Council agreed that we should waive rule 57 of the rules of procedure, which specifies that drafts should be circulated to members 24 hours in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered?

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council is ready to consider the report today and to take a decision on it.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Does any member wish to comment on the draft report introduced by the French representative, document T/L.1276, as orally amended, before the Council takes a decision on it?

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It is my understanding that we are now about to take a decision on the draft conclusions and recommendations, and I should therefore like to say a few words in explanation of vote before the voting.

First, I cannot fail to note as a positive point that the atmosphere of the Trusteeship Council at this session has been such that broader consultations have taken place. Here we would pay tribute to the efforts made during consultations and express the hope that this practice will be broadened and strengthened in the future, thereby assisting us to reach mutually acceptable decisions.

In explanation of my delegation's vote on the draft conclusions and recommendations to be included in the Trusteeship Council's report on its fifty-seventh session, document T/L.1276, the Soviet delegation wishes to state the following: Along with the provisions that do not elicit any comment on our part, the draft does, we feel, have some obvious shortcomings. I am referring to the linkage with Trusteeship Council resolution 2183 (LIII) of 28 May 1986. As the Soviet delegation has frequently noted, there are no grounds for that linkage. The drafting of a mutually acceptable text was apparently hampered by stereotypes, and if we cannot abandon them it will be difficult for us to be successful in our work here. That is not a reproach directed against any one, but, rather, an appeal to search for mutually acceptable decisions and to overcome outmoded stereotypes in this area as well.

The Soviet delegation will abstain in the vote on the draft conclusions and recommendations. Whatever the Trusteeship Council's resolution may say, according

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

to the United Nations Charter the status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands can be changed only by a decision of the Security Council. That is a position of principle, and we wish to reaffirm it.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I am sure that the Council will bear the Soviet representative's statement in mind in the course of its future work.

If there are no further comments, I shall now put the draft conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the report of the Drafting Committee, as orally revised, (T/L.1276) to a vote.

The draft conclusions and recommendations, as orally revised, were adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The draft conclusions and recommendations we have just approved will constitute Part II of the Council's report to the Security Council. The first part of the report will contain an overview of our deliberations, prepared by the Secretariat, in accordance with customary practice.

I shall now call upon representatives who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. DING Yuanhong (China)(interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation voted in favour of the draft conclusions and recommendations in the report of the Drafting Committee on the basis of its support for the principle of the Palaun people's right to self-determination. As for Palau's future political status, a solution should be found based on full respect for the wishes of the Palauan people themselves.

We have heard the statements by the representatives of the Administering Authority, and we hope that the Administering Authority will strictly fulfil the

(Mr. Ding Yuanhong, China)

responsibilities incumbent upon it under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement in such a way that the Palauan people will be able to achieve self-determination at an early date.

In view of the concerns expressed during our discussions over the future establishment of military installations in Palau, the Chinese delegation is of the opinion that there is a need for a serious consideration of that matter.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): In explanation of vote, I should like first to recall and praise the efforts made by the Drafting Committee members to achieve a text that might have been adopted with the full support of all members of the Council. I regret that it was not possible at the end of the day to have such a text, and I should like to reassert my delegation's strong belief that the reference to resolution 2183 (LIII) of 28 May 1986 is entirely appropriate, indeed necessary, for a proper set of conclusions and recommendations on this subject.

I look forward to working closely with all delegations on the Council, looking ahead to future sessions of the Council, to strive for mutually acceptable answers to all these questions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council has thus concluded its consideration of its conclusions and recommendations.

ATTAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE BY THE TRUST TERRITORIES (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1369 (XVII) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1413 (XIV)) AND THE SITUATION IN THE TRUST TERRITORIES WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 1514 (XV) AND 44/101) (continued)

CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1654 (XVI)) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As agreed by members of the Council at our 1678th meeting, held on 24 May 1990, the Council will consider agenda items 11 and 12 jointly.

If no member wishes to comment on these agenda items, I suggest that the Council decide to draw the attention of the Security Council to the Trusteeship Council's deliberations at its fifty-seventh session concerning the attainment, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, and in particular Article 83, of self-government or independence by the Trust Territory.

It was so decided.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In conformity with the procedure adopted at the Council's preceding sessions, we shall now suspend the fifty-seventh session and meet in resumed session, probably in the autumn, to consider the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council. Members will, of course, be informed of the precise date as early as possible.

As has been our practice in previous years, I shall ask the Secretariat to prepare a draft text of Part I of our report to the Security Council. When completed, the President will hold informal consultations with delegations before the formal resumption of our session on the entire report of the Trusteeship Council, specifically on the first part, since the second part has just been adopted.

I hope delegations will now permit me to make some comments. I wish first of all to thank all delegations for their most active contribution to our work. For my part, I was very pleased to work with you all. I learned a great deal about the situation in Palau, and about the problems of administering a Trust Territory: political, economic, social, institutional, financial and legal problems. Now, all I need is a visit to the country itself; this session has given me the appetite to visit one of the "seven underwater wonders of the world". I do not know whether I shall have a chance to visit the Territory, but I should certainly like to.

I thank all participants for their co-operation. Everything proceeded in a most harmonious manner and in a climate that has already been described by some representatives as constructive. This is important from the standpoint of the Council's future work, and I fully echo representatives who have stressed the need to take advantage of this new atmosphere to make gradual progress towards harmonizing our views and even perhaps towards a co-ordinated and harmonious

(The President)

consideration of all the problems of administering the Palau Trust Territory. I believe that one day we shall succeed in further merging our points of view.

I thank the specialized agencies which participated in our work. And I cannot fail to thank the Secretariat staff for its most important participation - without them we could do nothing - including the interpreters, translators, other Conference Services staff and all those who work behind the scenes to help us work in good conditions.

Let me also greet the other participating delegations - those of Fiji and of Papua New Guinea - and everyone else who helped me to ensure that our work took place in a good atmosphere.

For me personally, this has been a most rewarding experience, and I convey my personal thanks to one and all.

I declare the fifty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council suspended.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.